

REMARKS

Upon entry of the above amendment, the claims will be 1, 6 to 8 and 10.

The above amendment is responsive to points set forth in the Official Action as will be discussed in detail below.

Firstly, features from claim 9 have been incorporated in claim 1.

Further, claims 4 and 5 have been cancelled in view of the above amendment.

The significance of this amendment will be discussed in further detail below.

Claims 1 and 4 to 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hatakeyama (U.S. 5,750,309).

This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The rejection fails to appreciate the essential features of the present claims, particularly in view of the above amendment.

These essential features are relative to component (A) and include the following:

- (a) component (A) is a combination of at least two polyhydroxystyrene resin ingredients (A1) and (A2) each substituted by t-butoxycarbonyl groups for a part of the hydroxyl groups;
- (b) the substituent groups in (A1) and (A2) are of the same type, i.e. t-butoxycarbonyl;
- (c) the degree of substitution in (A1) of 30 to 60% is larger than that in (A2) 5-20%; and
- (d) (A1) and (A2) have weight-average molecular weights of which the ratio of the larger (largest) value to the smaller (smallest) value is smaller than 1.5.

The rejection alleges that, in Hatakeyama, the numeral p is the degree of substitution in their polyhydroxystyrene resin (claim 3, line 65 to claim 4, line 2). This teaching, however, has no bearing to the above-mentioned feature (c) which requires that the component (A) is a combination of two resinous ingredients (A1) and (A2) having specified different degrees of substitution each from the other.

The advantageous nature of this degree of substitution is discussed in the paragraph bridging pages 7 and 8 of the present specification.

These advantageous features are in no way disclosed or suggested by the cited reference.

For the foregoing reasons, the rejection on Hatakeyama is untenable and should be withdrawn.

No further issues remaining, allowance of this application is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner has any comments or proposals for expediting prosecution, please contact undersigned at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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